

Montana and the Sky



Vol. 40, No. 3

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

March 1989

BUTTE CONFERENCE RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Five hundred aviation enthusiasts proved beyond a doubt that the Montana Aviation Conference is an event worth attending even when Mother Nature throws a tantrum. In spite of snow and cold, the fifth Conference, held in Butte March 1 - 4, was an unqualified success.

The kick-off luncheon on Thursday was attended by 168 people who heard Lawrence Burian, president of the National Air Transportation Association, discuss the new General Aviation Market Expansion (GAME) Plan. Burian sounded a note of optimism for the industry and pointed out the need for cooperation between all facets - just the right theme for the beginning of the Conference.

Fifty exhibitors from across the U.S. brought displays for the trade show. Concurrent session speakers shared a wide variety of expertise with participants.

A special event at the Conference was

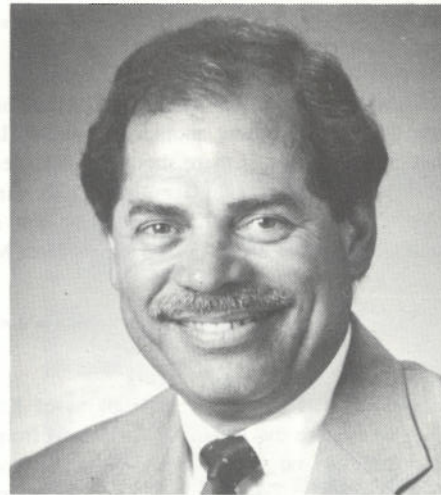
the premiere of the new aviation video, Montana Aviation - A True Story. The premiere was attended by 300 guests.

Dr. Jerry Cockrell graciously agreed to step in at the last minute as speaker at the Saturday luncheon when weather forced the cancellation of the appearance by Frank Kingston Smith. No one felt cheated, however, as Dr. Cockrell's presentation was entertaining and, as usual, carried a strong message.

Final highlight of the three days was the excellent presentation by Ann Pellegrino on the fateful flight of Amelia Earhart and the Earhart mystery.

Special congratulations go to the Butte Conference Committee for all their hard work - it definitely paid off. The following pages of the newsletter tell the Conference story in pictures. Photos taken during the Saturday awards luncheon will appear next month.

LETSON HEADS COMMERCE



New director of the Montana Department of Commerce is Mike Letson, Shelby.

Letson was raised and educated in Red Cloud, Nebraska. He graduated from Wentworth Military Academy in Lexington, Missouri, and received a Bachelor's Degree in finance from the University of Denver.

In 1977, Letson moved to Shelby where he was involved in several business ventures and many state and community projects. During his working career, he has been an active participant in the banking, construction, management, coal, oil, and gas industries - most recently managing failing companies back to health.

Letson served on Governor Stephens' transition team and was selected in early 1989 as director of the Montana Department of Commerce.

He has two children - Alison of Shelby and Michael of Helena.



An airplane in the swimming pool was the centerpiece for a very attractive display area at the Montana Aviation Conference in Butte.

Administrator's Column

Aviation Conference. Our 1989 Aviation Conference, held in Butte March 1 - 4, was again a huge success. In spite of the inclement weather on Wednesday and Thursday, there was a very strong turnout. There were a few cancellations; however, most braved the storm and arrived Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. The many concurrent sessions were well attended, and the guest speakers gave interesting presentations and were well received. The exhibit area at the Copper King probably offered the best setting for exhibits we have had thus far. Many exhibitors expressed their satisfaction, which is gratifying. We depend heavily on their participation and support which is crucial to the success of our Conference. I would like to recognize and thank our 1989 Butte Conference Committee, the Butte Hangar of the Montana Pilots Association, for co-hosting the Conference, my Aeronautics Division staff, those who put on the concurrent sessions, exhibitors, and all of the other people who participated for all their hard work and dedication toward making the 1989 Conference such a huge success.

1989 Montcanaska Air Tour????? Many have inquired about whether or not there are any plans being made to have another air tour to Alaska again this year. The answer is NO - at least thus far - however, if there should be sufficient interest in another air tour, I'm sure that we will be able to enlist volunteers to assist in setting up the necessary arrangements. If you should have an interest in participating in such an air tour, please fill out the form below, cut out, and return it to this office (Box 5178, Helena, Montana 59604).

Aviation Trust Fund. Rep. Hopkins of Kentucky has introduced a bill, H.R. 1352, which would remove the Aviation Trust Fund from the "unified budget" and, thus, not allow the administration and Congress to hold the money hostage to paint a false budget deficit picture. The Aviation Trust Fund is now reported to be in excess of \$11.8 billion.

1989 MONTCANASKA AIR TOUR

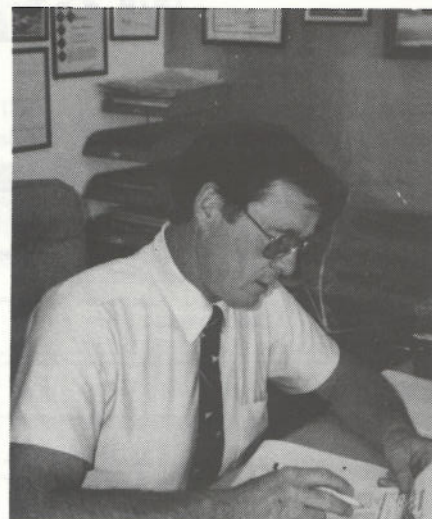
_____ Yes, I am interested in participating in a 1989 MONTCANASKA Air Tour. Please put my name on a mailing list so that I may be informed as plans progress.

Departure date preferred: _____ June 17 _____ June 24

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____



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THE CONFERENCE IN PICTURES



Ruth Anderson and Dennis Walden confer on meal counts for the Thursday luncheon.



Mike Letson, new director of the Department of Commerce, addresses participants at the kick-off luncheon.



Dave Fine, Committee chairman, presents a centennial belt buckle to Larry Burian, featured speaker at the kick-off luncheon.



Lisle Wood (left) and Angie Petroni work on a display of old aviation photos.



Representing the lieutenant governor at the kick-off luncheon is John Kinna, executive assistant to Lt. Gov. Kolstad.



As a special recognition, Mike Ferguson pins a set of Montana Wings on Burian's lapel.

CALENDAR

April 5 - 7 - Combined Airports Conference and Northwest Chapter Meeting of the American Association of Airport Executives, Holiday Inn, Bozeman.

April 11 - Aviation Safety Program, Glasgow.

April 12 - Aviation Safety Program, Sidney.

April 23 - Aviation Safety Program, Miles City.

May 19 - 21 - Benchmark Work Session (Tentative).

June 12 - 30 - Aerospace Education Teacher Workshops.

June 24 - Airport Dedication Fly-In and Air Show, Baker.

July 8 - 9 - Montana Centennial Air Show featuring the Thunderbirds, Gallatin Field, Bozeman.

July 14 - 16 - Schafer Meadows Work Session.



Featured speaker for the kick-off luncheon, Larry Burian, president of NATA, discusses the GAME Plan.



An inflated airplane brings aviation to this little tyke. Students and children were encouraged to attend the Conference to learn more about aviation and aviation careers.



Fred Isaac, regional administrator of the Northwest Mountain Region, FAA, conducts an FAA Availability Session.



This line-up for posterity includes (from left) Russ Pankey, outgoing president of MAMA, Monte Eliason, new president of MAMA, and Joe Attwood, executive secretary.



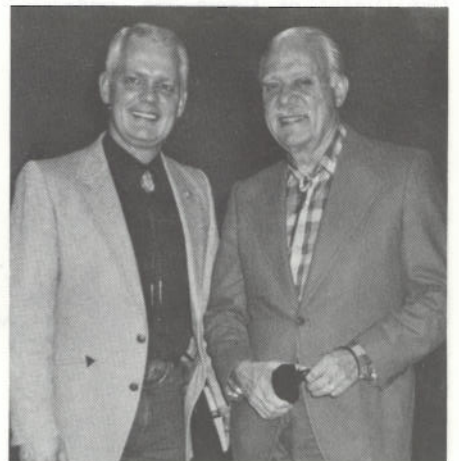
Robert Cupery, Aircraft Window Repairs, chats with mechanics during the Aircraft Mechanics Refresher Seminar.



Joe Attwood presents Russ Pankey with a special gift of appreciation for his years of service as president of MAMA.



A special open meeting of the Aviation Organizations of Montana (AOM) was held to explain the make-up and purpose of the group to Conference participants. Pictured are aviation group representatives (from left) Lance Edwards, CAP; Paula DeKeyrel, MAAA; John Dove, MPA; Russ Pankey, MAMA; Steve Vold, MATA; and Marilyn Lewis, MFF. Not shown are representatives of the 99s and EAA.



Conference participants enjoyed meeting Dr. Jerry Cockrell's father, Jim, who came from Mississippi to spend time with his son and to visit Montana.



Panelists for an aviation careers program for students on Saturday morning include Col. Howard Rice, USAF Academy.



Brenda Spivey, airline station manager with ERA Airlines in Anchorage, Alaska, explains airline careers to an interested group.



Phil Vittetoe, aircraft maintenance instructor from the Helena Vo-Tech, visits with a prospective aircraft mechanic.



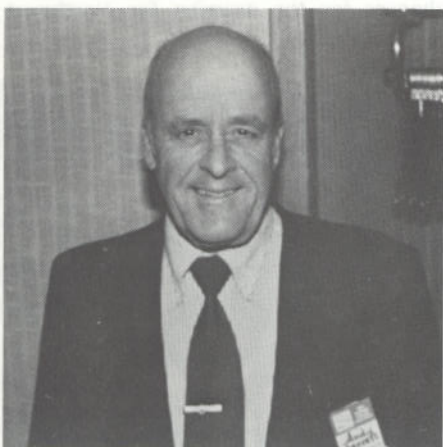
Director of Aviation Studies at Rocky Mountain College, Ben Diggs explains their program.



This group of CAP cadets assisted with security in the display area and attended some Conference sessions. They were especially interested in the aviation careers session.



Fielding a question during a session on legislative issues is Tom Chapman, Vice President and Legislative Counsel, Office of Legislative Affairs, AOPA. Accompanying Tom is Cheri Farha, Senior Director of State Legislative Affairs, AOPA.



The AOPA Air Safety Foundation provided three seminar sessions conducted by Andy Serrell, instructor for the Foundation from Frederick, Maryland.



Sharing a joke with John Jardine (center), Whitehall, who spoke in a concurrent session on the project to remove the military aircraft from the polar ice in Greenland, are Lisle Wood (at left) and Mike Flager, Butte.



Aviation history must have been the topic of discussion here between Jim Cox, Winston, presenter of a concurrent session on World War II Marine Corps aviation, and Ann Pellegrino, Saturday banquet speaker and Earhart expert.



Jan Anderson of the 99s shares her booth table with two diners during the buffet luncheon in the display area.



C.R. Hunt of Great Falls wears both hats he won during door prize drawings.



Pickin' and singin' during the Friday evening hospitality hour are Larry Larson, Dave Gates, and Leon Devine. Others joined in during the evening and there was even an impromptu square dance.



Ray Costello and his wife Floy find the stairs in the display area a good place to watch the proceedings during door prize drawings. Ray is the regional representative of AOPA from Corvallis, Oregon.



Airplane photos draw the attention of this group consisting of (from left) Frank Bass, Moore; Gordon Sands, Havre; and Jim Monger, San Bernardino, California, (formerly of Bozeman).



Angie Petroni, manager of Bert Mooney Airport in Butte and member of the Butte Conference Committee, distributes chances for the drawing for Northwest Airlines/Airlink tickets to premiere attendees.



Blowing up balloons to lend a festive air to the video premiere kept this happy group busy for a good share of Friday afternoon. They are (from left): Bob Howard, Helena, and Pat Asay, Dave Daugherty, and Dave Fine, all members of the Butte Conference Committee.



Following the premiere, many participants purchased copies of the aviation video.



Representatives of the various groups involved in production of the video include (from left): Lance Edwards, CAP; Tom McBride, EAA; Paula DeKeyrel, MAAA; John Dove, MPA; Russ Pankey, MAMA; Marilyn Lewis, MFF; Jim Lewis, MFF; Dorothy Albright, 99s; Steve Vold, MATA; and Monte Eliason, MAMA, chairman of the Video Committee.



Lisa Reid, Northwest Airlines, makes the presentation of an airline ticket to one lucky winner during festivities at the video premiere. Northwest Airlines and Northwest AirlinK donated two tickets - one on Northwest AirlinK good anywhere on the AirlinK system, and one on Northwest Airlines good anywhere in the continental U.S.



Cathy Simkins is caught by the cameraman at the banquet on Saturday evening. Cathy leaves to move to Billings after six years with the Division.



For his special contributions to Montana aviation through his participation in this and past Aviation Conferences, Harry Fallis is awarded a Wings pin by Mike Ferguson. Fallis is Regional Manager of Aviation Safety, Transport Canada.



Featured speaker for the Saturday banquet, Ann Pellegrino retraced Amelia Earhart's fateful flight - a trip which she shared with the banquet audience. Her presentation also included information on the Earhart mystery.



Visiting during the Montcanaska Tour Reunion are (from left) Al Starke, Helena; Greg and T.J. Riffin, Great Falls; and Russ Dahl, Glasgow.



On behalf of the Butte Conference Committee and the Division, Dr. Cockrell receives a centennial belt buckle from Mike Ferguson in appreciation for his contribution to the success of the Aviation Conference.



Ann Pellegrino is "pinned" with the Montana Wings by Mike Ferguson. She was also given a centennial medallion in appreciation for her appearance at the Montana Conference.

LOAN PROGRAM SOON TO EXPIRE

By: Jerry Burrows, Chief
Airport/Airways Bureau

Please be advised that monies presently available for loan to communities having airport construction projects will no longer be available after June 30, 1989.

Requests can be handled up to mid-June, but please contact us as soon as possible if you are interested. A certain amount of paperwork is required, and this takes time.

Nearly \$900,000 is available, and the payback period as of June 30 will be six years. The interest rate is 7.109% with a 1% one-time only administrative fee.

Contact Jerry Burrows at the Division at 444-2506 for more information.

AVIATION VIDEO WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

The newly produced video, Montana Aviation - A True Story, won in the public relations category at the Telly Awards competition held recently in Cincinnati.

This is a national competition for films aimed at regional markets. There were over 3,200 entries.

The film has also been entered in an international film festival in Houston and will be judged there in early summer.

2000 copies of this public document were published at an estimated cost of \$.37 per copy for a total cost of \$746.60, which includes \$561.60 for printing and \$185 for distribution

MEMBER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

PURPOSE—"To foster aviation, as an industry as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in research, development, and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."

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